

SURNAAD MUSIC ACADEMY

Presents

***A CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE
82nd BIRTHDAY OF***

H H SHRI SATGURU JAGJIT SINGH JI MAHARAJ



on Sunday 1st December 2002

at 4.00 pm Till late

at The Dominion Arts Centre

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His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj

By Pandit Vishwa Prakash

I remember the day I had the honour to touch the lotus feet of Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj, when I was 11 years old. Satguru Ji was visiting Bombay, and one evening He invited my father to perform for him at the house of one of His Followers. I accompanied my father and as soon as I entered the room, I saw a holy man with white beard, sitting on a white aasan, wearing a white turban, a white dress, a white mala around his neck, and smiling. I could feel a light coming from His body and spreading all over, the same kind of holy shine as when sun rises in the morning. When I touched His lotus feet, although I was only a child, I felt like I have touched the feet of a deity in a temple, Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh or all in one.

I clearly remember that musical evening. My father Pandit Mahadev Prashad Kathak was singing, accompanied on tabla by Ustad Allah Rakha Khan Saheb, the great exponent, who is not with us any more. The whole atmosphere and the vibrations it created during that performance were completely different. I felt that they were not only musical, but spiritual as well. The entire music sounded as holy as it could be.

During that evening, Sri Satguru Ji reminded my father of a promise that he made to Sri Satguru Partap Singh Ji, that when Thakur Dalip Singh Ji and Thakur Uday Singh Ji were old enough to learn music, my father would teach them. My father agreed, and within a month everything was arranged and we went to Sri Jeevan Nagar, the holy village in Haryana. We reached there and Satguru Ji and Maharaj Bir Singh welcomed my father. The Ganda Bandhan ceremony was done with Thakur Dalip Singh Ji and Thakur Uday Singh Ji and many other students, who are now well known musicians in their own right. Amongst them are Harbhajan Singh Namdhari, Gurudev Singh Namdhari, (late) Surjit Singh Matu and others.

I too started learning with the other students in Sri Jeevan Nagar, and from then on was showered with the grace and love of Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj. That love was special and I always felt somehow that I belonged to him in a spiritual way.

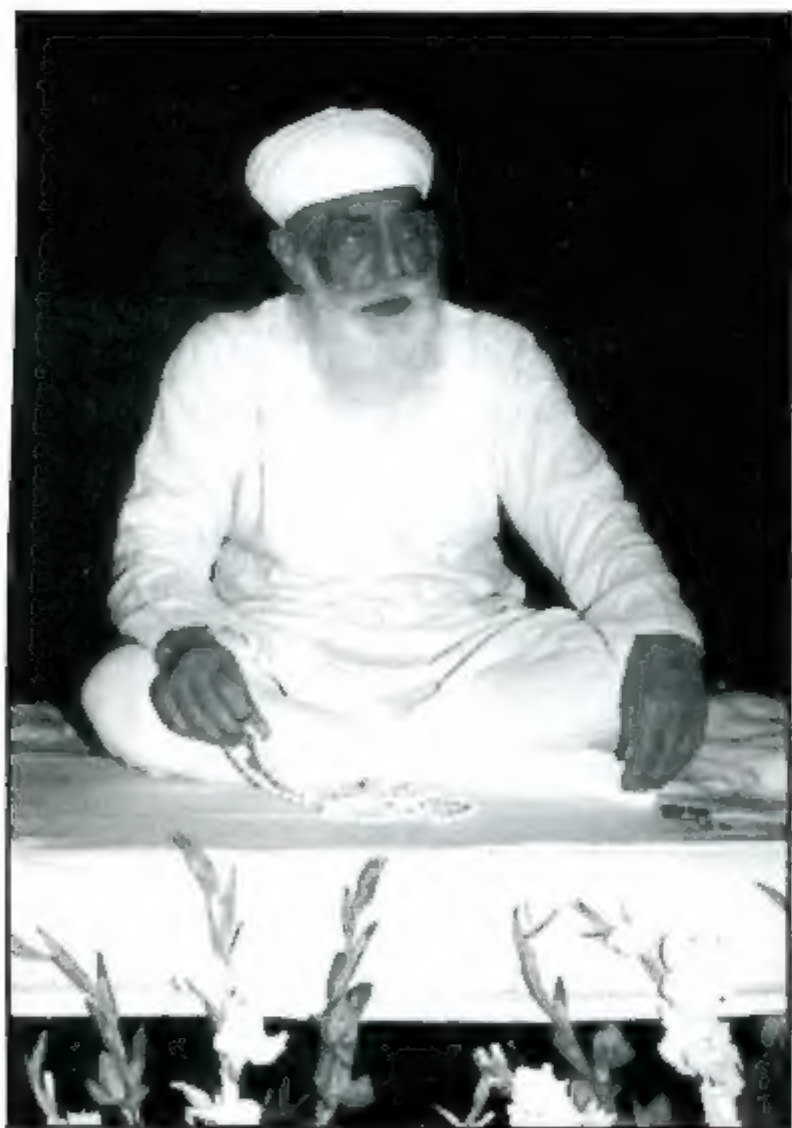
Aside from music, I remember one occasion where there had been no rain in Haryana for two years. The farmers, whose harvest were failing, approached Sri Satguru Ji and asked Him to bless them and cause rain to fall. Sri Satguru Ji asked for the preparations for Chandi Yajna to be made. A Havan was arranged for a few days and all great Namdhari saints led by Sri Satguru Ji sat around it and chanted Chandi Di Var path. It was out of this world and the same shine was present on Satguru Ji's face, as if Lord Rama or Krishna had appeared to do the Yajna. After few days, it did rain.

Sri Satguru Ji is an ocean of music. As sky is filled with an infinite number of stars, Satguru Ji's knows a countless number of ragas, old compositions, bandishes, dhrupads, dhammars, thumris, chota khayals, taranas etc. While I was living in Thailand, whenever Satguru Ji's used to visit with Maharaj Bir Singh, we used to sit together in the evenings and joyfully repeat the old compositions, which my father had taught to his students.

I have always seen Satguru Ji's with a bright smile on his face, and when He sings or plays dilruba, He is totally absorbed in the music, like Lord Krishna playing His flute and causing all around Him to rejoice.

Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji have a soft spot for musicians of every faith - Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and all classes. He always blessed all of them and helped them financially as well. Satguru Ji made the dream of Sri Satguru Partap Singh Ji come true by making it possible for namdhari children to learn classical music, including singing, sarangi, santoor, sarod, tabla, pakhawaj etc. from great masters. It started with my father, then Ustad Amjad Ali Khan Saheb, Ustad Vilayat Khan Saheb, Pandit Kishan Maharaji, Rajan Sajan Mishra, Pandit Ram Narayanji, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Master Nihaal Singh etc etc.

Everyone recognised that Satguru Ji is not an ordinary person. He is Himself that Almighty Power who has come on to this earth to give love and serve the divine art of pure classical music, which belongs to our Vedas and Shastras.



I have been given a difficult task by Gurudev Singh Ji to write a few words about Sri Satguru Ji. It is an honour for me to be able to do this, although I cannot do Him justice in such a few words.

I would like to mention one more thing about Sri Satguru Ji. I have had ups and downs in my life, and four or five times while I was living in Thailand, Hong Kong, Britain, where ever I had a problem, I heard the next day Satguru Ji was in town, as if somehow He knew that I needed help. He always helped me a lot. With the grace of Satguru Ji, Who was the first one to sponsor me to go to Southeast Asia, I have performed in around 26 countries worldwide.

The love and blessings Satguru Ji has given me are treasures of my life, which will always remain with me. I feel proud and lucky to be associated with Him, to touch His lotus feet a thousand times and to see His smiling face.

May Satguru Ji's blessings always be showered upon us, and may all of us who have learnt music in Sri Jeevan Nagar and Sri Sri Bhaini Sahib, continue to serve the art of music around the world, and with His blessings reach every success.

Koti Koti Pranams to the lotus feet of Satguru Ji from his humble servant and child.

Sangeet Satguru

By Dharambir Singh

His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj is one of the rare saints to bless this world with their divine presence. Sri Satguru Ji is the spiritual head of the Namdhari Sikh's, a religious movement believing in the continuity of the living masters after Sri Guru Gobind Singh the tenth Guru of the Sikh lineage. Namdhari's have had an enormous impact on the music of North India and in particular on the Sikh world. The credit of this amazing musical transformation goes to Satguru Ji, who in his leadership of eighty two years have been the patron to so many Hindustani musicians.

In the true tradition of the Sikh saints, Sri Satguru Ji has had the grooming from his father Shri Satguru Pratap Singh Ji which combined the spiritual meditation, study of scriptures, musical training and leadership. Satguru Ji had a strong musical environment in his childhood, surrounded by eminent musicians of the time, like Bhai Tappa, Bhai Nasir, Bhai Udho Khan and Pandit Mahadev Kathak. He also met and heard other eminent musicians of the time who attended various conferences and festivals hosted by Sri Satguru Pratap Singh Ji.

Sri Satguru Ji himself sing the Gurbani and play the Taush and Dilruba. His early interest was mostly centred around the Sikh Gurbani tradition including Dhrupad, Dhamar and Khayal. It was around 1963 that he started taking interest in the mainstream classical music of North India. He started paying interest to music of Ustad Vilayat Khan, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Mehndi Hassan and others. Sardar Avtar Singh, was one of his very dear disciple and a tabla player. Satguru Ji developed his own playing on the Dilruba and also developing a new technique of playing the sympathetic strings of Dilruba with the index finger nails to create a beautiful Santoor/Harp like sound. Sri Satguru Ji started developing close links with some of the top musicians of North India through regular meetings and musical gatherings.

By the 1970's Sri Satguru Ji had placed students from the Namdhari community with musicians like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Vilayat Khan, Pt. Rajan Sajan Mishra, Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pt Hari Prashad Chaurasia, Pt Ram Narain, Pt Kishan Maharaj, Pt Shamta Prashad, Pt Sharda Sahai and Ustad Allah Rakha. This initiative of his was an unprecedented one for the Sikh community. He was committed to bring the knowledge and skills of playing classical music into the already rich Gurbani tradition. His deep insight in maintaining the relationships with the musicians was key to the success of his initiative. He would shower his blessings on the master musicians teaching the young Namdhari's by sending gifts, paying for properties, paying for operations and looking after their other material needs. For many musicians Satguru Ji's contributions made their careers. Sri Satguru Ji also organised Sri Satguru Pratap Singh Sangeet Samelans, the musical conferences in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and other smaller cities. These Samelans became the showcasing opportunities for the students and the emerging talents.

By 1990's Sri Satguru Ji's endeavours bore rich fruits. Many musicians from the Namdhari community were now established in their own careers and their progeny were starting to show great promise for the times to come. The Sikh world now had musicians playing a variety of musical instruments and vocal styles. The main musical festivals now would witness Namdhari's with their distinct white turban identity perform along with the top musicians. Namdhari musicians and Namdhari's as audiences became a common occurrence. Sri Satguru Ji's insight, commitment, love, devotion and saintly character helped infuse music in the veins of the community.

Sri Satguru Ji's grace has had an impact on many North Indian musicians in some way or the other. Namdhari's have taken music to where ever they have moved in the world. The impact of this on the South Asian musical life in England is profound. It would not be an exaggeration to say that most of the musicians making a contribution as performers, teachers and leaders are from the Namdhari background. Namdhari musicians are either settled in England in different cities or are regular visitors to the country. There is hardly any concert of North Indian Music which does not see musicians from this community either as performers or members of the audiences. Some of the professional musicians who either live or visit England are:

Gurdev Singh -	Sarod/Dilruba/Tar Shehnai/Sitar - Disciple of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan- Based in Southall Middx.
Dharambir Singh -	Sitar/Santoor - Disciple of Ustad Vilayat Khan - Lecturer Leeds College Of Music.
Kiranpal Singh -	Santoor/Tabla - Disciple of Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma - Southall Middx.
Sukhwinder Singh -	Tabla/Pakhawaj - Disciple of Pt Kishan Maharaj - Based in Birmingham.
Surjeet Singh -	Sarangi/Dilruba - Disciple of Pt. Ram Narain, Southall Middx.
Harbhajan Singh -	Gurbani/Sitar - Disciple of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan - Based in Leeds.
Mohan Singh -	Khayal and Gurbani vocal - Disciple of Pt Rajan Sajan Mishra.
Sukhdev Singh -	Khayal and Gurbani vocal - Disciple of Pt Rajan Sajan Mishra
Navinder Pal Singh -	Tabla - disciple of Sukhwinder Singh - Based in Southall Middx.

It is a great fortune to be able to pay our respects to Satguru Ji on his 82nd birthday, through this special event organised by Sumaad music academy. This performance brings together some of the musicians directly or indirectly associated with Sri Satguru Ji. Sri Satguru Ji's blessings are being showered on all the music lovers. It is his divine insight that helps bring humanity closer to their own spiritual being through music. Music helps all to be cleansed so that everyone could develop love and thus realise the divine link.

“Gurmat Sangeet”

Harjinder Kanwal

The Gurbani Shabad Keertan, which combines the Gurbani of the Gurus and saints, with classical ragas is also called Gurmat Sangeet. This fusion of classical, devotional and folk music in the present form goes back to the 15th century during the advent of Guru Nanak, the first Guru of the Sikhs. Since then the later Gurus with their rababis, dhadhis and keertanias have carried it on until the present age. Although the classical trend of the Gurbani keertan has declined considerably during the years, giving way to the film tunes and non or semi-classical styles, but it is still prevalent among some of the Sikh orthodox sects, which have carried on with the traditional style of ‘Gayaki’- mainly ‘Gurmat Sangeet’. This combination of Gurbani and Raga is the basis of ‘Guru Granth Sahib’, where the ‘Raga ’ precedes the gurbani ‘Salokas’, hence the Gurus have specifically instructed the Sikhs to sing ‘Gurbani’ in the specified ‘Ragas’.

Instruments such as the sitar, madhyam veena and the favourite ‘rabab’ were the most popular musical items during Guru Nanak’s time and the use of ‘sarinda’, ‘kachuwa’, pakhwaj and tabla came more into use during the times of later Gurus and mostly under Guru Gobind Singh. The sarinda was the invention of Guru Arjan. The Guru Granth Sahib mentions many musical instruments and the likes of rabab, veena, baja, been, kingri, singhi, murli pakhwaj, dholak, manjeer, ghungroo, naad and quite a few others are mentioned in its vast vocabulary. The ‘tanti saaz’, string instruments were prominently featured and although the sarangi is not mentioned, the siranda, taus, dilruba, veena and tanpura accompanied with tabla dhamma or pakhawaj have been the main instruments used in the religious congregations. The harmonium is a French invention adopted by the ragis of the late 19th century.

The Gurmat Sangeet, a blend of raga and folk, features the exclusive style of raga, ‘the pardtaal’- a significant composition of dhrupad and khayal, which is the traditional style of Gurmat Sangeet and which no other musical forms have yet been able to adopt.

The Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib is a treasure of compositions of the Gurus and many bhagats, saints and bards, who belonged to various regions of India. Their compositions in different dialects and languages adorn the Adi Granth Sahib in a variety of several languages with local idioms and local dialects. The sufi kalaams in sufi style, ‘the kafi’ also became a part of the Gurmat Sangeet.

The folk tradition introduced in Gurmat Sangeet were mainly during Guru Nanak’s time, when his companions Bhai Bala and the mirasi rababi Bhai Mardana accompanied Him on his divine voyages. Mardana was an exceptional player of the rabab, which incidentally was bought by the Guru for him from Bhai Firanda of Kapurthala. The mirasis, to whom Mardana belonged was a lowly community, which then gained social acceptability during and after Guru Nanak’s time and nearly four generations of mirasis served the later Gurus. The rabab was a difficult instrument to play therefore some more stringed instruments such as the dilruba, taar shehnai and taus joined the orchestras of the gurdwaras.

It is with regret that I have to close my small introduction by saying that the Sikhs have wavered from the origin of the Gurmat Sangeet but on the other hand I am optimistic by the efforts of the Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj and some orthodox sects, who have carried on with the true tradition of Gurmat Sangeet and are keeping it extant.

Music connoisseurs and maestro like Gurdev Singh should be applauded for their sterling efforts in promoting the true tradition of ‘Sangeet’.



I am delighted to take this opportunity to send my warmest wishes to the organisers of the Surnad Music Academy. They have put tremendous efforts into organising this classical music event to celebrate the parkash diwas of his Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji.

Wherever his Holiness has graced his presence, he has always emphasised on believing in one's own religion and praying to god, refraining from eating meat and drinking alcohol, helping the poor and less fortunate, and working towards an honest living.

His knowledge of worldly affairs is vast and he stands for the finest values of India's timeless culture. His patronage of India's classical music and his extraordinary creativity in that field are a source of inspiration, not only to the Namdhari Sangat, but also to the larger community of Indian art and culture and mainspring of bhakti.

S. Gurdev Singh Ji has organised a concert in celebration of his Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's parkash diwas and also as a gesture of gratitude towards Sri Satguru Ji on 1st December 2002.

We wish S. Gurdev Singh Ji, and those artistes taking part on this special occasion a successful event and may Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji bless them.

Sulakhan Singh Jandu
President of Namdhari Sangat UK



Ustad Amjad ali Khan weloming Sat Guru Ji at Sarod Ghar Gwalior

Ealing Council



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Sh. Gurdev Singh
Surnaad Music Academy

15 November 2002

Dear Gurdev

RE: JUGAL BANDI CONCERT CELEBRATIONS

I am pleased to know that Surnaad Music Academy is holding the Jugal Bandi concert in Sunday 1 December 2002 at the Dominion Arts Centre to celebrate the 82nd birthday of H.H. Shri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj. Please convey my congratulations on this happy occasion to the whole sangat and the community. Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj has made a unique contribution in the field of classical music through his patronage by supporting the musical training of a large number of young men and women from the community. Many of these musicians are now settled in various parts of the world and are spreading our great heritage of classical music traditions in western countries.

It is a matter of great pride and pleasure that we would have the opportunity to listen to these young musicians on 1st December 2002. I look forward to meeting all of you on that day.

With all good wishes once again.

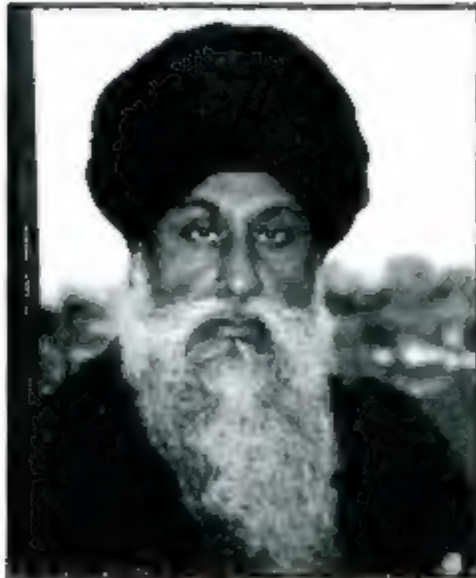
Yours sincerely

Ranjit Dheer
Past Mayor, London Borough of Ealing (2001 – 2002)

Punjabi Heritage Institute (London)

34 Keith Road,
Hayes,
Middlesex UB3 4HP

Director: Surjan Singh Gill
Phone: 07951242014



Sur Naad Music Academy,
8 Fulwell Court,
Baird Avenue,
Southall,
Middlesex UB1 3NB

Dear S. Gurdev Singh Ji,

It is my privilege and pleasure to attend the social and classical gathering on the 1st of December 2002, to watch and listen to the cream of classical musicians of UK and India. A variety of talent, which has probably never been seen on the stages of Great Britain and will be a treat to observe and digest.

Being an ardent fan of classical music this invitation was God sent and I thank you very much for it.

I believe this concert has been organised to celebrate the 82nd birthday of Sri Baba Jagjit Singh Ji, who is himself a music maestro and a connoisseur of classical ragas. His devotion and encouragement to other Sikhs and the public in general is phenomenal. I pay my deep respect and homage to him.

I send you my best wishes and prayers for the success of this concert.

Yours sincerely,

Surjan Singh

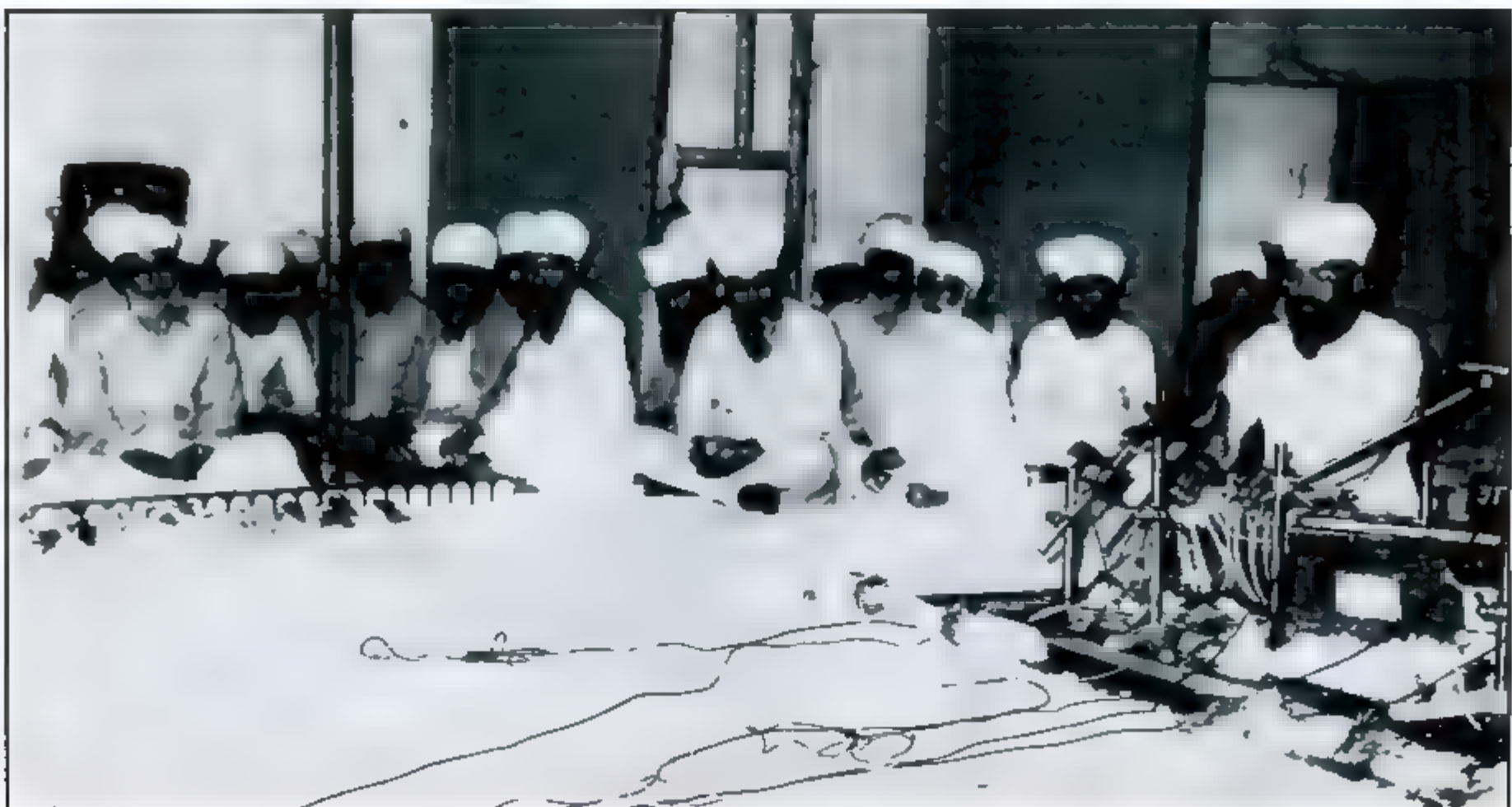
Jagdish Singh Waryam
Editor Waryam
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It is a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction that renowned artists of classical music have established Surnaad Music Academy Ltd" to propagate the cause of Music and Musicians.

His holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji the great connoisseur of music have organised memorable music conferences in different parts of globe. H.H. has also produced and groomed numerous artists of International fame.

I hope and pray that the academy will carry on and enhance the cause of spiritual and aesthetic upliftment and unity of mankind through the medium of pure music as envisaged by His Holiness.

I also pray for the grand success of the programme planned by Mr. Gurdev Singh and offer my sincere co-operation and thanks.



Late Mr. Avtar Singh performing Tabla in the presence of Satguruji



Dear Gurdev,

I have great pleasure in congratulating you and the organisers of Sur-naad Music Academy who are celebrating the 82nd birthday of Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji. I take this opportunity to express a few words about the great Satguru.

Where as Guru Nanak travelled in the East up to Mecca and Medina, Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji has spread the same word through out the world. While on his journeys he has not only given spiritual wealth to people but also taught us the wisdom of knowing the purpose of our being in this world.

Sri Satguru Ji has exemplified the true meaning of humanity, respect and tolerance for others and has always stressed the need and shown us the way towards world peace. Political leaders who have approached him for his blessings have become ministers.

It does not stop here. He is the leading figure in the knowledge and practice of Indian Classical and Gurmat music. He has taught many a great artist and also has been able to arrange with world renowned Ustads to teach those who have shown interest in this field.

The artists performing Jugal-bandi on the 1st of December are an example of Satguru Ji's blessings.

I therefore congratulate you for celebrating this auspicious occasion and wish you success

Kuldip Singh Ryatt

Vice President Namdhari Sangat Southall



Singh Bhandhu in the presence of Satguruji at Aurangabad



DILBAGH S CHANA
MBE, FLIA

12th November 2002.

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Shri Gurdev Singh Ji,
Surnaad Music Academy
8 Fulwell Court
Baird Avenue,
SOUTHALL.

My dear Gurdev Singh,

I am very happy to learn that you are celebrating Satguru Jagjit Singh's 82nd Birthday with a special programme of classical music.

I am aware that the contribution of Satguru ji in promoting music and especially classical music in India is recognised by every one who loves Indian Music. I believe that we own a great debt of gratitude to Satguru ji for encouraging young persons to learn to sing and play Indian Classical music.

I am honoured and very grateful to you for the opportunity to be a part of such a celebration. My prayers and good wishes are always with you for a successful event.

Yours,

Dilbagh Chana



Chaman Lal Chaman

A Veteran Broadcaster, poet and compere Chaman is a highly acclaimed artist with extensive experience in a range of creative arts. He has written lyrics for world famous singers like Jagjit Singh, Asha Bhosle, Kumar Sanu, Anup Jalota and Deedar Singh Pardesi. His lyrical repertoire also includes various hit songs by local bhangra groups. He has keen interest in music.

Chaman has compared shows at the most prestigious venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, London Palladium and Wembley Conference Centre featuring renowned artists like Lata Mangeskar, Jagjit Singh, Mehdi Hassan, Ust. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Ust. Amjad Ali Khan and many more.

Chaman is the compere for this evening's Concert



Kuldip Singh Ubhi

General Secretary Namdhari Sangat
Birmingham.

Words fail to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation, to all organisers and artists part taking in this auspicious event. Only with the absolute commitment and dedication of such globally renowned musical maestros, is this celebration of Sri Satguru Ji Maharaji's Parkash Utsav made possible.

Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's love and devotion to music, has proven to be an inspiration to classical musicians around the world. With his blessings alone, classical Indian music has reached such high and creative standards. Sharing this love for arts in balance with this immense wealth of knowledge and spiritualism, Sri Satguru Ji has made a positive impact on the lives of many.

There can be no more appropriate manner by which to celebrate these immeasurable achievements, than by sharing Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji's passion this evening.

I give my whole-hearted congratulations to all!

Dear friends

This music Programme has been organised by 'Surnaad Academy to celebrate the 82nd Birthday of His Holiness Siri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj.

In the past I have arranged several music programmes in India and overhere in the UK. I have also had the fortune to organise 'Satguru Partap Singh Ji Music Festivals' in Bombay, Aurangabad, Lucknow and Four in Dehli.

My Namdhari friends participating in today's concert are well known artists in their own field.

I Thank you all for your kind support for this programme, especially Mr. Kuldip Singh Sura (Bina Musicals), Mr. Surjan Singh Gill, Mr. Chaman Lal Chaman, Mr. Gurbux Singh Matharu, Tirlochan Singh Grewal and Mr. M.L. Vaid, without their help and support this programme would not have been possible.

I hope you enjoy the concert and will join me in wishing his Holiness Siri Satguru Ji many more birthdays to come

*Your Friend
Gurdev Singh*



Kuldip Singh Sura
Bina Musicals



Gurbux Singh Matharu



Tirlochan Singh Grewal



M. L. Vaid

*With best wishes from
H. S. Randhawa - Ustad Harbhajan Singh
Ripudaman Singh Plaha
Satwant S. Panesar - G. Thethi Artist*



Harbhajan Singh

Harbhajan Singh is one of the most prominent musicians to have combined the classical music of North India and the devotional gurbani singing special to the Sikh heritage.

Harbhajan Singh started his early training in Vocal and Dhruba from Ustad Tara Singh, the eminent Sikh musician. He had training in the traditional Gurbani Dhrupad Dhamar singing from Shri Chandarhans and Mahaharaj Bir Singh. He was guided in Dhrupad, Dhamar and Thumri by the maestro of Jaipur, Pandit Mahadev Prashad (Kathak).

Under the auspicious guidance of His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, Harbhajan Singh became the disciple of the world renowned Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, to learn the art of Sitar playing.

In the words of H H Sri Satguru ji 'Harbhajan Singh is like the tree (teacher) from which many fruits (music students) will come forth'.

Harbhajan Singh has been teaching in Bhaini Saheb (the centre of the Namdhari community) and other centres around the world since 1975. Most of the present musicians from the Namdhan community have learnt from Harbhajan Singh in some way.

Harbhajan Singh has performed on Sitar and Gurbani Kirtan in various settings and places in India and abroad. He is currently based in Leeds as the artist in residence with South Asian Arts-UK.



Gurdev Singh

Gurdev Singh is one of the world's foremost exponents of the Sarod. He is the leading disciple of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and is now becoming well known internationally through his performances in the USA, Canada and the UK.

Gurdev Singh was born on 15 January 1948 and was brought up in a remote village in Haryana, North India. He began learning music at the age of seven under Ustad Tara Singh and Piara Singh who taught him Dhruba, a bowed instrument of great antiquity, which Gurdev still plays occasionally. He is also trained in vocal music under Pandit Mahadeo Prasad.

In 1967 Gurdev became a disciple of the world famous Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan in Delhi and was introduced to the Sarod with the Holy patronage of H.H. Shri Satguru Jagit Singh Ji.

His UK performances have included the BBC, Midland TV, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Bath and Oxford University, the 1984 Liverpool Garden Festival and South Bank. In North America he has played in Vancouver, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle University and at the prestigious Amir Khusro Society in Chicago and last year he also visited Switzerland, Denmark, Dornstead Festival and other European countries. As well as being a superlative musician Gurdev Singh is also extremely charming and sociable person who has a way of winning the hearts of his audiences with his warmth and humour. He has a large body of dedicated students here in England, to whom he has given much of his time.



Dharambir Singh & his student Jassi Bannister

Dharambir Singh is one of the most prominent Sitar player based in England. Disciple of the legendary Sitar maestro Ustad Vilayat Khan, Dharambir has truly imbibed the sound of the rich Imdad Khani and Vilayat Khani Gharana (style).

Ustad Vilayat Khan Saheb generously provided access to the rich musical style of the Imdad Khani Gharana. Dharambir got immense love and guidance from the Ustad and as a result of his dedication and the blessing of the masters he was invited for Ganda Bandhan (traditional initiation ceremony) in Bombay in 1979. Dharambir's relationship with the Ustad as an ongoing one and he is considered to be one of the foremost disciples of Ustad Vilayat Khan.

Dharambir's first public performance was at the age of fifteen at Shankar Hall in Delhi. Since then he given many concerts throughout various states of India including the Kamani Auditorium Delhi, Bombay and Lucknow. In 1974 he won the Sangeetayan All Indian Music Competition prize for juniors and in 1977 he won the prize for the senior category. He was invited to perform at the 25th International Vegetarian Congress held at Loughborough University England.

Dharambir Singh joined his parents in England in 1979 and has since settled in England. He has been active in performances and teaching in Europe. He has performed widely in major festivals in England, Spain, Germany and Italy. He has also performed in Canada and USA. He has worked extensively with the Euro Asian Fusion Group Shiva Nova. He performs regularly in collaboration with musicians from other musical styles.



Kiranpal Singh

Born in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania, East Africa, on 13th December 1957 and subsequently educated in England, Kiranpal Singh's first music study was the tabla, which he pursued under the guidance of Shree Ripdhaman Singh. Satguruji arranged for Kiranpal to be sent to Bombay to study santoor under the guidance of Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Kiranpal has settled in England since 1987 and has gained respect and admiration for his various performances in the UK, Europe and beyond, in recitals, festivals and lecture demonstrations. Admired by both audiences and critics, his mastery of the advanced techniques of the instrument, combined with a creative flair and spontaneous imagination, has developed a recognisable individuality in his performances. This, in turn, has led him to be sought after as a co-leader of ground-breaking developmental and cross-cultural projects, whilst continuing to advance the presentation of Indian Classical music to ever widening audiences through his solo work.

Kiranpal has released three compact discs with Multitone Records Ltd, in the UK.

1. String of Elegance - Raga Chandrakans and Sindhi Bhairavi.
2. Raga Shree
3. Moments in Time - Raga Kaunsi Kanhra and Bhairavi Dhun.

Surjeet Singh

Surjeet Singh, a prominent disciple of the Sarangi Maestro Pandit Ram Narayan, was born in 1961 in Delhi, India and started his musical training at an early age from Shri Gurdev Singh and Harbhajan Singh Ji. Under the auspicious guidance of His Holiness Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, he progressed for the Dilruba (a bowed instrument of Panjab) onto vocals and finally to the Sarangi - which was to become the focus of his life.

With Satguru Ji's blessing, Surjeet Singh became the disciple of the Sarangi Maestro Pandit Ram Naryan Ji in 1977. He undertook intensive training with his revered Guru Ji in Bombay, for a period of 15 years and he has become an outstanding Sarangi player in his own right. He also received guidance from Late Pandit Hunuman Prasad Mishra of the Benaras Gharana.



Chander Mohan (tabla player)

Chander Mohan is one of the well known tabla player of India and through out the whole world. As a child prodigy he was tutored by his father Pandit Babu Lal with the traditional way of 'Guru Shiyā Prampra and continuing his lesson from the Tabla Wizard Late Pandit Hira Lal Ji of Delhi Gharana For 20 years.

He has given many solo's programme and accompanied with all the major artists of India and Pakistan such as Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Vilayat Khan (Sitar), Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (Sarod), Pandit Ram Narayan, Ustad Sultan Khan (Sarangi), Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma (Santoor), Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasiya (Flute), Pandit Bhim Sen Joshi, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Rajan & Sajan Mishra, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan (Vocal), also with Late Pandit Durga Lal and Uma Sharma, Shobhana Nayayan the well known Kathak Dancers.



Sukhwinder Singh Namdhari

Sukhwinder started his training with Ustad Nihal Singh on the Pakhavaj and then went to live in Benaras for 18 years with tabla maestro Pandit Kishan Maharaj under whom he has rigorous training in the Guru Sishya parampara.

Today, Sukhwinder is the most sought after Tabla player nationally and internationally, having performed with many international famous artists such as Amjad Ali Khan, Vilayat Khan, Ravi Shankar and at the BBC Proms. Sukhwinder's tour with Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ry Cooder led to his Grammy award in 1994.

In more recent times Sukhwinder has worked with Lal Sangam the Bradford based South Asian arts company, for their Millennium Festival Commission project 'Global Echoes', a new fusion music project in collaboration with members of the BBC Philharmonic



Sanju Sahai

Sanju Sahai is an outstanding tabla player who has accompanied many senior artistes, both vocalists and instrumentalists such as Pandit Rajan Sajan Mishra (vocal), Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (Sarod), Pandit Birju Maharaj (classical kathak dancer) Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (guitar), to name a few. He comes from a very eminent percussion lineage. He is a direct descendent of Pandit Ram Sahai, the founder of the Benaras Gharana (tradition). Sanju was trained by his guru, Pandit Sharda Sahai, the virtuoso tabla player. He began playing tabla at the age of four, demonstrating his prodigious skills and at the age of nine he gave his first public performance at the Sankat Mochan Temple in Benaras.





Kamal Sabri (Sarangi Player)

The youthful Kamal Sabri with his musical brilliance, has already carved a niche for himself in the world of Indian Classical Music.

Kamal belongs to a distinguished family of traditional musicians and shows great promise in continuing this artform, dutifully, as being the seventh generation of Sarangi playing. He has trained under his renowned father Padamashree Ustad Sabri Khan in the style of the Sainia Gharana (school) of Rampur- Mordabad.

At such a young age he has set a mark on the international cultural scene both as soloist and providing decorative Sarangi accompaniment to vocal music. Kamal regularly performs for all India Radio and national television. He has performed in many prestigious music festivals in India and obtained several awards including 'The Best Instrumentalist', 'Surmani' and recently the 'Young Maestro' award by the Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Council. Kamal has also been invited to share his art with the BBC in UK and the Finnish Broadcasting Co., Finland.



Navinder Singh

Navinder Singh only in his early twenties is one of the most inspiring young tabla players based in England. Navinder has been brought up in a musical environment, as his father Gurdev Singh is a well-known Sarod player. Navinder is a disciple of the renowned tabla player Shri Sukhvinder Singh Namdhari, disciple of maestro Pandit Kishan Maharaj of Benaras Gharana (style). Navinder's tabla style reflects the dynamism and strength of his teacher on rhythmic play.



Gurbaksh Singh

began learning the Tar-Shenai at the age of eleven. He began his training with Ustad Kamaljit Singh chana. By the age of thirteen Gurbaksh became the student of Ustad Gurdev Singh.

Gurbaksh has performed at venues such as the Watermans Art Centre in London. He has also participated in Sangeet Samelans in India, Kenya and Tanzania.



Rupa Panesar

Rupa Panesar is young talented artist from Leicester. She is the student of Mr. Dharambir Singh.



Sujan Panesar



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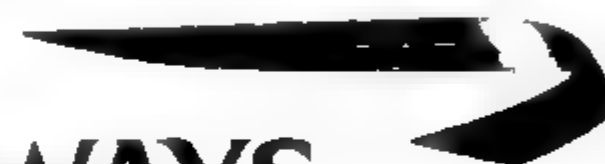
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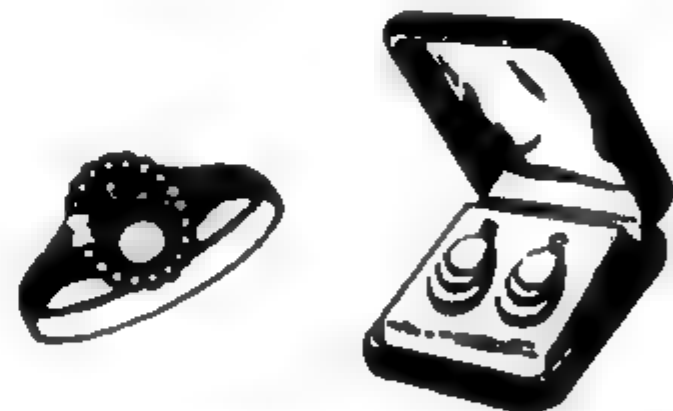
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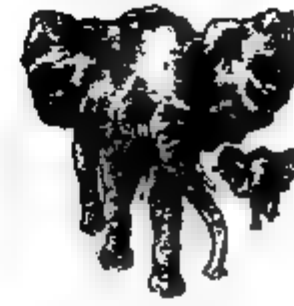
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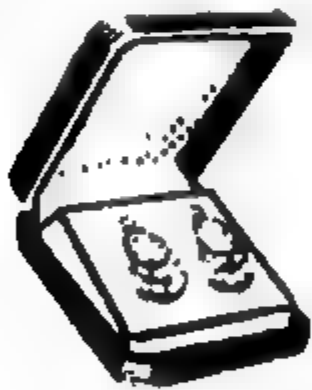
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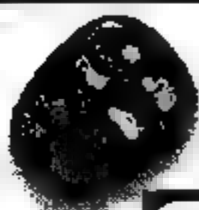
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From left: Mrs. Khurshid, Satguruji, Pt. Rajan Mishra, Pt. Ravi Shankar
Mrs. Sukanya, Miss Shruti & Gurdev Singh in London (3rd August 1997).



Satguruji Receiving Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan Award from
Ustad Amjad Ali Khan at Sarod Ghar Gwalior in 1999.
From left. Gurdev Singh, Purbaji, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Satguruji,
Smt. Subhalakshmi Khan, Rachpal Singh & Harbhajan Singh



From Left (standing) Harbhajan Singh, Suckdev Singh, Purbaji, Mohan Singh,
Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Satguruji, Rachpal Singh, H. S. Hanspal, Anjan & Jagdish Waryam
(Sitting) Gurdev Singh, Smt. Subha Lakshmi Khan & Ustad Shafaat Khan.